

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming a prosthetic residual limb socket based upon a test socket, comprising:

positioning a casting anchor within the test socket, the casting anchor being engaged  
5 with an alignment member extending out through a hole in the test socket;

introducing a molding material into the test socket so as to at least partially encase the casting anchor and allowing the molding material to set to form a model;

separating the test socket from the model and disengaging the casting anchor from the alignment member;

10 providing an adapter bracket having at least one through-hole adjacent the model and introducing the alignment member through the at least one through-hole in the adapter bracket and into engagement with the casting anchor to position the adapter bracket relative to the model;

forming a prosthetic residual limb socket about the model and adapter bracket;

15 disengaging the alignment member from the casting anchor; and separating the prosthetic residual limb socket from the model.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the through-hole in the adapter bracket is tapped.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the through-hole in the adapter bracket is a centrally located bore extending from a top surface to a bottom surface of the adapter bracket.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the through-hole in the adapter bracket is adapted to receive one or more devices selected from the group consisting of a suction valve, air expulsion mechanism, pin cover, plug, and cosmetic adapter.

5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the casting anchor comprises a shoulder portion to aid in preventing longitudinal movement of the casting anchor relative to the model.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the casting anchor is provided with a cross  
10 sectional shape defined by at least one corner portion to aid in preventing rotational movement of the casting anchor relative to the model.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the alignment member extends through the at least one through-hole in the adapter bracket and a foam block, and then into engagement  
15 with the casting anchor to position the adapter bracket relative to the model.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein a lock mechanism is secured to the adapter bracket and the alignment member extends through the lock mechanism into engagement with the casting anchor.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the alignment member threadedly engages the casting anchor.

10. A method of forming a prosthetic residual limb test socket comprising:

providing an adapter bracket having an upper mounting face, a lower mounting face and a generally smooth sidewall extending therebetween, the sidewall including a plurality of bores in which a corresponding plurality of removable posts are received;

5       securing the adapter bracket to a model of a residual limb; and

applying a socket forming material about at least a portion of the model and the adapter bracket,

the socket forming material covering the plurality of removable posts but not the lower mounting face of the adapter bracket.

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11. The method of claim 10, further comprising removing any socket forming material from the lower mounting face of the adapter bracket.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein any socket forming material is cut away  
15 from the lower mounting face of the adapter bracket.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the socket forming material is applied in such a manner that the lower mounting face of the adapter bracket remains uncovered thereby.

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14. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of removable posts comprise set-screws threadedly received in threaded bores in the adapter bracket.

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising removing that portion of the socket forming material which covers each of the plurality of posts, removing each of the plurality of posts from the respective bores in the adapter bracket, and moving the adapter bracket in the direction of the lower mounting face to separate the adapter bracket from the  
5 test socket.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the socket forming material comprises a clear thermoplastic.

10 17. The method of claim 10, wherein a centrally located through-hole extends from a top surface to a bottom surface of the adapter bracket.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the through-hole is tapped.

15 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the lower mounting face of the adapter bracket includes a circular recess about and coaxial with the centrally located through-hole.

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